



Tuesday, 20 September 2023

No. 59 – 2023

EIGHTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

1. The Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.
2. **Announcements by the Speaker in terms of Rule 20(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

- (i) The Speaker announced that the *Godwana Collection Namibia* is inviting all Members to the launch of the *Tourism Heroes Campaign Award* and the presentation ceremony of the first award to the Tourism Against Crime Organization. The event will take place today, during our health break in the Parliament courtyard.
- (ii) Secondly, the Speaker reported that a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will conduct an Information Session with all Members of the National Assembly tomorrow Wednesday, 20 September 2023 from 09:00 – 10:30 in the C.1 Conference Room.

The Session will focus on:

- The Mission Objectives of the IMF;
- The Budgetary Process; and
- Perspective on economic development, including Green Hydrogen and Oil Exploration.

All the Members are invited to attend this important session with the IMF Team.

3. **NOTICES OF QUESTIONS:**

- (i) Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) to ask the Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (No. 151).
- (ii) Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) to ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 152).
- (iii) Hon. Vries (PDM) to ask the Prime Minister (No. 153).
- (iv) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (No. 154).
- (v) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) to ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (No. 155).
- (vi) Hon. Hamata (PDM) to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (No. 156).
- (vii)

4. **Hon. Katjimune moved without Notice in terms of Rule 27(h) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

That leave of absence be granted to Hon. Nico Smit until further notice,

Agreed to.

5. **FIRST NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

Hon. Hamata moved, seconded by Hon. Araes:

Long distance marriages can be pretty daunting. They can take a toll on the mental and physical health of spouses and their children.

All children have the right to grow up with both their parents, in the same environment. Children in family environments are generally safer and better cared for, yet things like long-distance marriages force hundreds of children from their biological parents each year and vice versa. These spouses and children suffer extreme stress when split from each other for months, sometimes years on end. Separation undermines children's development. What's more, it leaves them vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse.

Article 14(3) of our Constitution makes provision for the family being the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

That this Assembly therefore –

*Discusses* the issue of family separation due to long-distance marriages and the negative impacts this has on the psychological health and financial status of families as they now have to struggle to keep up with maintain two households in different towns, or regions.

Further, that this Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Stranding Committee for further investigation and informed counsel.

On the motion of Hon. Van Wyk, seconded by Hon. Van den Heever, debate adjourned until Tuesday, 3 October 2023.

6. **SECOND NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

Hon. Mootu moved, seconded by Hon. Isaaks:

That this Assembly –

*Discusses* the suitable housing options in Namibia to address housing shortage and funding gaps.

Further, that this Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further scrutiny and report back.

On the motion of Hon. Dienda, seconded by Mr. Hamata, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

7. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:51 until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

**MS. L. KANDETU**

*Secretary of the National Assembly*

*Compiled by I. Nehoya*